

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy  
Paris  
January 25, 1955

25X1

Rec'd: Jan. 28, 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICIAL BUSINESS--INFORMAL

GEP-France-L-187

Dear Dr. Burt:

FRENCH GUIANA BOUNDARY MAP

Reference: Your Letter No. 161

The enclosed maps, along with the following explanation, should give you a fair picture as to the current status of the southern portion of the boundary between French Guiana and Brazil. The two maps are:

1. An IGN map of French Guiana at 1:1,500,000 (1950) on which the disputed area was marked by an IGN official.
2. WAC Sheet 894 (Tumucumaque) on which I plotted the same information as closely as possible.

First, the line marked "A" on each of the maps ("Ligne de partage des eaux--trace probable" on the IGN map and "approximate alignment" on the WAC chart) is not a disputed line. The problem is to find the exact water divide, which will presumably be acceptable to both French Guiana and Brazil.

Second, the small filled-in triangular section--marked "B" on each map--is the one over which there is disagreement.

. . . /

Dr. Arthur L. Burt  
Special Assistant for Maps  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

The boundary is described as following the Oyapock River, and each country has a different version of the headwaters of this stream: The French maintain that the Oyapock starts from south of the 2nd Parallel (as shown on the two maps) and continues northward; Brazil claims that the stream marked as Cr. Kerindiotou on the IGN map is the headwater of the Oyapock River, hence the boundary.

Third, part of French Guiana--south of the 3rd Parallel--is to be photographed at 1:50,000; estimated completion in October 1955. With air photography at this scale it should be possible to establish any necessary water divides, and also perhaps determine which of two streams constitutes the upper reaches of the Oyapock River.

NOTE: Colonel Glazer of the Office of the Air Attache had the contacts which resulted in this information.

Sincerely yours,

*G. Etzel Percy*  
G. Etzel Percy  
Geographic Attache

Enclosures:

Two maps (unclassified) as enumerated above

CONFIDENTIAL